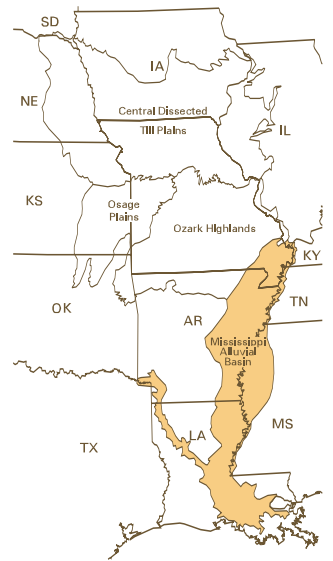


# Mississippi River Alluvial Basin

Historically, the Mississippi Alluvial Basin was an inaccessible wilderness of swamps, bottomland forests and marshes. Frequent flooding played a significant role in the creation and maintenance of complex wetlands. Soils are very deep, accumulating as floodplain sediments left by the Mississippi and Ohio rivers. The broad alluvial plain has remarkably low relief except for the sandy terraces or natural levees that rise 15-30 feet above the general surface. Sand prairies, savannas, and woodlands are restricted to elevated sandy areas. Riverfront forests occupied natural levees along the Mississippi River and other large rivers.

While the Mississippi River Alluvial Basin region has largely been drained and converted to row crop agriculture, remnants exist that can perhaps sustain the Bootheel's characteristic wildlife.



Photos: Allred Lake Natural Area and Green Treefrog  
Jim Rathert, Missouri Department of Conservation

# Mississippi River Alluvial Basin

## Animal Targets of the Mississippi River Alluvial Basin

### **Forest**

Spotted Salamander • Marbled Salamander • Mole Salamander • Upland Chorus Frog • Mississippi Kite • Prothonotary Warbler • Swainson's Warbler • Northern Parula • Golden Mouse • Cotton Mouse • Swamp Rabbit

### **Woodland**

Timber Rattlesnake

### **Prairie**

Illinois Chorus Frog • Eastern Spadefoot

### **Wetland**

Bald Cypress Katydid • Hoosier Grasshopper • Banded Pygmy Sunfish • Bantam Sunfish • Swamp Darter • Starhead Topminnow • Pugnose Minnow • Three-toed Amphiuma • Green Treefrog • Western Mud Snake • Western Chicken Turtle • American Bittern • Least Bittern • Little Blue Heron • Snowy Egret • Black-crowned Night Heron • Hooded Merganser • Sora • King Rail • Virginia Rail • Least Tern • Black Tern • Rice Rat

### **Cave**

Spring Cavefish

### **River and Stream**

Bankclimber • Flat Floater • Texas Lilliput • Wartyback • Cajun Dwarf Crayfish • Shield Crayfish • Shrimp Crayfish • Freshwater Shrimp • A Mayfly (*Baetisca obesa*) • Brown Bullhead • Western Sand Darter • Pirate Perch • Flier • Lake Chubsucker • Mud Darter • Bluntnose Darter • Harlequin Darter • Goldstripe Darter • Cypress Darter • Scaly Sand Darter • Cypress Minnow • Dollar Sunfish • Ironcolor Shiner • Taillight Shiner • Alligator Snapping Turtle



*Interior Least Tern*



*Western Mud Snake*



*Mississippi Kite*